Converting Madras to Gotty Road as National Highway

630. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal pending with the Union Government to convert the State highway from Madras to Gotty through Archanam-Ranigunta as National Highway;

(b) if so, what is the basis for this proposal;

(c) by when this proposal is likely to be implemented; and

(d) whether Government have also considered the proposal to connect Gotty with Uravakonda in extension of the said proposal so as to connect the highway connecting Madras and Bombay which passes through Uravakonda?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) Requests have been received for the declaration of this road as a National Highway to cater to the needs of pilgrims and goods traffic, etc.

(c) Due to constraint of resources it is not possible to declare the road as a National Highway at present.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to (c) above.

Delay in Indian Airlines Flights IC 495 and IC 496

631. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi-Baroda-Delhi *via* Ahmedabad flight Nos. IC 495 and IC 496 are generally late, causing tremendous hardship to the passengers;

(b) if so, what is the number of times when these flights were delayed beyond half an hour during the last six months;

(c) what are the reasons for frequent delays of these flights; and

(d) what steps are being taken to avoid such delays?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL) : (a) to (c) During the period April, 1988 to September, 1988, out of a total of 512 flights of Indian Airlines service IC-495/496 (Delhi/Ahmedabad/Vadodara/Delhi, 289 were delayed for more than half an hour, reasons for which were:

Reason	No. of delay
—Engineering	4
—Weather	3
—Airport facilities	1
—Miscellaneous	6
—Consequential	275
TOTAL :	289

(d) Indian Airlines has revised its schedule and has provided standby capacity cushions at base stations to minimise delays.

Superfast Train between Varanasi and Kanyakumari

632. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the South Indian Welfare Movement in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh for a Super fast train from Varanasi to Kanyakumari; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However, constraints of capacity and resources preclude introduction of such a train.